

Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 2016
5:00 p.m.
DRAFT

Members present: Jenny Cole, Mark Dillenbeck, Larry Hamilton, Dorothy Hill

The minutes from February 23, March 22 and April 27 were approved. (Motion made by Mark, seconded by Larry.)

Park maintenance

Control of wild parsnip: A motion was made (Larry, seconded by Dorothy) to have Junior Lewis do mowing along Route 7 and in the field behind the Kent house. The cost will be the same as last year (\$400).

Mow! Mow! Mow! provided a cost quote of \$90 to fill and seed holes in the lawn around the Thorp Barn. Committee members were OK with this expenditure.

Jenny contacted Junior about improving the agricultural access to the Overlook field. He will take a look and report back.

The Committee members discussed additional signs to advise visitors of rules regarding parking. Discussion was prompted by a vehicle left overnight, reported by Chris and Mary Boyd. Committee members felt that the existing signs at the parking area are adequate.

Larry reported that a beekeeper has expresses interest in placing bee hives in Unit N. He will follow up on this.

Elm tree grant

Mark provided grant documents. There was discussion about the number of trees and possible locations for planting. Mark suggested fewer, larger trees planted in the fall, so there is time for the Committee to meet and flag locations. \$500 will be contributed from the Rutter Fund as part of the Town's match.

Educational sign for bobolink field

Elizabeth Emmons is doing work at the Park to fulfill a student volunteer requirement. She and her mother met with Sue to do invasive plant work. Elizabeth is making an educational sign for the bobolink field. The sign will be laminated and posted along the trail at south and north ends of the field.

Waiver of lease payment for Nordic Holsteins, LLC

Nordic Holsteins will not be receiving outside funding for the grassland bird habitat area this year.

About half of the field was mowed on May 25th by a farm worker unaware of the agreement to delay mowing. Committee members were disappointed that the field was cut. No decision was made regarding the waiver. The Committee will observe the field for ground-nesting birds.

Updated weed management plan by UVM students

UVM undergraduates are able to do a re-assessment of invasive plants in the Park, and come up with an updated weed management plan. Ellen Gawarkiewicz from the UVM Field Naturalist Program is coordinating. The only cost to the Town will be for reimbursement for travel. Ellen sent an invoice for \$28.08 for 4 trips.

Management Plan work assignments and meeting schedule

Committee members felt it would be best to stick with the plan to assign sections from Sue's list under Landscape Management. The list was updated as follows:

Field nesting bird habitat (Unit F): Jessie, See report by Mark LaBarr

Invasive plants: Sue

Wildlife meadows: Dorothy

Riparian buffers: Larry

Erosion control: Larry

Hedgerows: Jenny

Gravel trails and farm access road: Dorothy, (Jenny has info.)

Hiking trails: Jenny

Woodlands (Units O and P): Mark

Audubon Area (shrub land bird habitat area): Jessie, See report by Mark LaBarr

Ponds, wetlands and streams (Units R1, 2, 3, 4): Sue

Other

Mark provided an update on the Emerald Ash Borer. He will be involved with doing an inventory of trees on public land and along roadsides.

Larry continues to receive documents related to the appeal of the Zoning Board decision on the Varney Farm proposal. The next deadline for filing documents is in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.